

Honorable Benjamin H. Settle

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT TACOMA

CEDAR PARK ASSEMBLY OF GOD OF KIRKLAND, WASHINGTON,)	Civil No. 3:19-cv-05181
)	
Plaintiff,)	DECLARATION OF
)	JASON "JAY" SMITH
v.)	
)	
MYRON "MIKE" KREIDLER, in his official)	
capacity as Insurance Commissioner for the State)	
of Washington; JAY INSLEE, in his official)	
capacity as Governor of the State of Washington,)	
)	
<u>Defendants.</u>)	

Jason "Jay" Smith, upon oath and affirmation, hereby deposes and says:

1. I have personal knowledge of all of the facts in this declaration.

2. I am the Senior Pastor of Cedar Park Assembly of God of Kirkland, Washington.

3. Cedar Park's group health insurance plan currently excludes coverage for abortion and abortifacient contraceptives. The Church will not provide coverage for these items when its health care plan is renewed on August 1, 2019.

4. It would violate the religious beliefs of Cedar Park to provide any sort of payment, premium, or fee for a health care plan that provides coverage of or facilitates access to abortion or abortifacient contraceptives, either directly or indirectly. Accordingly, it would violate Cedar Park's beliefs to pay an extra premium, fee, or any payment to its insurer for the

1 payment of abortions and abortifacient contraceptives for plan beneficiaries, even in an instance
 2 where Cedar Park's health insurance plan did not directly provide coverage of abortion or
 3 abortifacient contraceptives.

4 5. Cedar Park has carefully considered its insurance options. In doing so, the Church
 5 has determined that self-insurance is not a viable option. If Cedar Park were to provide a self-
 6 insured plan, it would cost the Church roughly \$243,125 more in additional annual costs, and
 7 that number is expected to double within the next several years due to increase in plan use.

8 6. Moreover, switching to a self-insurance plan is likely to have a catastrophic effect
 9 on employees and family members currently battling serious illness. For instance, one child of an
 10 employee will need a kidney transplant soon and the Church would not have the ability to pay
 11 for it if it offered a self-insured plan.

12 7. Additionally, an employee undergoing expensive cancer treatment would likely
 13 no longer be covered should the Church switch to self-insurance.

14 8. Because the Church honors its religious and moral commitment to care for its
 15 employees and their families, Cedar Park cannot offer a self-insured plan. Cedar Park's only
 16 viable option, therefore, is to provide group health insurance.

17 9. I hereby declare under penalty of perjury, including pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746,
 18 that the foregoing factual allegations are true and correct.

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 20 Executed on this 13th day of May, 2019 in the United States.

21 s/ Jason "Jay" Smith

22 Jason "Jay" Smith

23 Senior Pastor, Cedar Park Assembly of God of Kirkland, Washington

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